

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT

July Livestock Slaughter
U.S. & Delta States Farm Labor & Wage Rates
Average Prices Received by Farmers
U.S. Rice Stocks

Louisiana Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production in Louisiana during July totaled 800,000 pounds, down 11 percent from June and 20 percent below the previous year.

There were 700 head of **cattle** slaughtered during July, down 400 head from June and 300 head from the previous year. Average live weight was 923 pounds, up 117 pounds from the previous month and 68 pounds above July 2004. Total live weight at 658,000 pounds, was 24 percent below the previous month and 26 percent below the previous year.

Calves slaughtered during July totaled 600 head, up 300 head from June but the same as the previous year. Live weight averaged 514 pounds, up 1 pound from June and 34 pounds above July 2004. Total live weight, at 284,000 pounds, was up 84 percent from June but 8 percent below the previous year.

The number of **hogs** slaughtered during July totaled 1,200 head, down 500 head from the previous month and 300 head below the previous year. Average live weight was 180 pounds, down 3 pounds from June and 21 pounds below the previous year. Total live weight was 224,000 pounds, down 27 percent from June and 26 percent below a year ago.

The number of **sheep** slaughtered during July was 100 head, down 100 head from June and the previous year. Live weight averaged 73 pounds, down 11 pounds from the previous month and 1 pound below the previous year.

United States Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.62 billion pounds in July, down 2 percent from the 3.71 billion pounds produced in July 2004.

July 2005 contained 21 weekdays (including one holiday) and 5 Saturdays. July 2004 contained 22 weekdays (including one holiday) and 5 Saturdays.

Beef production, at 2.08 billion pounds, was 1 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.72 million head, down 2 percent from July 2004. The average live weight was up 15 pounds from the previous year, at 1,254 pounds.

Veal production totaled 12.4 million pounds, 7 percent below July a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 58,600 head, down 15 percent from July 2004. The average live weight was 26 pounds above last year, at 350 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.51 billion pounds, down 5 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 7.66 million head, 5 percent below July 2004. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 264 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 13.5 million pounds, was down 5 percent from July 2004. Sheep slaughter totaled 200,800 head, 9 percent below last year. The average live weight was 134 pounds, up 6 pounds from July a year ago.

January to July 2005 commercial red meat production was 25.9 billion pounds, down 1 percent from 2004. Accumulated beef production was down 1 percent from last year; veal was down 8 percent; pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 4 percent

Commercial Livestock Slaughter and Meat Production

Item	Louisiana					United States			
	June	July		January - July		July		January - July	
	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
----- Number, thousand head -----									
Cattle	1.1	1.0	0.7	8.0	7.6	2,787.2	2,718.4	19,192.2	18,599.8
Calves	0.3	0.6	0.6	4.1	3.3	68.8	58.6	497.5	435.1
Hogs	1.7	1.5	1.2	13.1	11.7	8,095.8	7,662.0	58,549.9	58,218.8
Sheep & Lambs	0.2	0.2	0.1	1.1	1.1	220.9	200.8	1,636.8	1,555.3
----- Total live weight, thousand pounds -----									
Cattle	861	891	658	6,922	6,623	3,454,091	3,410,124	23,478,881	23,104,855
Calves	154	310	284	2,025	1,600	22,316	20,537	164,948	150,791
Hogs	306	304	224	2,735	2,298	2,123,485	2,025,963	15,599,917	15,673,589
Sheep & Lambs	17	12	8	107	112	28,378	26,881	225,046	215,998
----- Average live weight, pounds -----									
Cattle	806	855	923	865	871	1,239	1,254	1,223	1,242
Calves	513	480	514	494	485	324	350	331	347
Hogs	183	201	180	209	196	262	264	266	269
Sheep & Lambs	84	74	73	97	102	128	134	138	139
----- Million pounds -----									
Red Meat	0.9	1.0	0.8	7.7	6.7	3,707.9	3,615.9	26,009.0	25,863.6

Delta States Farm Labor

Farm labor estimates are made for the combined Delta states: Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi. The Delta states had 24,000 hired workers on farms and ranches during the week of July 10-16, 2005, down 23 percent from July 2004. Of the 24,000 hired workers, workers who work 150 days or more a year accounted for 79 percent of the total, and workers who work 149 days or fewer account for the remaining 21 percent.

The average wage rate in the Delta states for all hired farm workers was \$7.85 per hour compared to \$7.65 per hour in July 2004. Delta states hired farm workers averaged \$1.54 per hour less than the average U. S. hired farm worker. Livestock workers earned \$7.80 per hour compared to \$7.58 per hour a year earlier. Field workers were earning \$7.59, or 33 cents more per hour this July than last July.

The average numbers of hours worked, at 38.0 hours per week, was 2.6 hours less per week than the current U.S. average of 40.6 hours per week.

United States Farm Labor

There were 1.33 million hired workers on the nation's farms and ranches the week of July 10-16, 2005, up 2 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 930,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 402,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.39 per hour during the July 2005 reference week, up 35 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.62 per hour, up 28 cents from last July, while livestock workers earned \$9.25 per hour compared with \$8.74 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.78 per hour, was up 35 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 40.6 hours for hired workers during the survey week, up 4 percent from a year ago.

Farm Labor & Wage Rates: Delta and United States

Item	Delta ¹			United States		
	July 2004	April 2005	July 2005	July 2004	April ² 2005	July 2005
Hired Workers (All)	31	28	24	1,304	1,000	1,332
Ag Service Workers	---	---	---	343	247	402
Hired Farm Workers	31	28	24	961	753	930
150 Days or More	23	24	19	637	600	656
149 Days or Less	8	4	5	324	153	274
Average Hours Worked (Hired Farm Workers)	39.1	39.4	38.0	39.2	39.9	40.6
Average Wage Rate (Hired Farm Workers)	\$7.65	\$7.64	\$7.85	\$9.04	\$9.35	\$9.39
By Type of Worker						
Field	\$7.26	\$7.37	\$7.59	\$8.34	\$8.56	\$8.62
Livestock	\$7.58	\$7.18	\$7.80	\$8.74	\$9.14	\$9.25

¹ Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi.

² Revised.

--- Data not published.

Prices Received Index Down

The Preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in August at 117, based on 1990-92=100, decreased 1 point from July. The Crop Index is down 2 points while the Livestock Index decreased 1 point. Producers received lower commodity prices for corn, soybeans, eggs and sweet corn. Higher prices were received for lettuce, peaches, strawberries and turkeys. The overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities a producer sells. Increased average marketings of cattle, grapes, sweet corn and calves offset decreased marketings of wheat, hay, milk and broilers.

Preliminary All Farm Products Index is down 3 points from August 2004.

The Food Commodities Index, at 120, is unchanged from last month but decreased 3 points from August 2004.

Prices Paid Index is Unchanged

The August Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates is 141 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index is unchanged from July but 6 points above August 2004. Higher prices in August for feed concentrates, diesel fuel and complete feeds offset lower prices for feeder cattle, feed grains and feeder pigs.

Average Prices Received by Farmers: Louisiana and United States

Item	Louisiana			United States		
	Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary
	August 2004	July 2005	August 2005 ¹	August 2004	July 2005	August 2005 ¹
	-----Dollars-----			-----Dollars-----		
Soybeans, per bushel	7.30	2/	2/	6.83	6.65	6.09
Rice, per cwt	8.52	6.85	6.49	8.96	6.78	5.53
Upland cotton, per pound ³	.536	2/	2/	.537	.432	.408
Hay, all, baled, per ton	n/a	n/a	n/a	92.20	99.70	99.70
Beef Cattle, per cwt ⁴	71.50	68.10	70.80	87.70	85.30	84.70
Steers & Heifers, per cwt	105.00	99.80	102.00	91.00	88.40	88.00
Cows, per cwt ⁵	51.90	51.80	52.50	54.70	53.80	51.90
Calves, per cwt	123.00	119.00	119.00	131.00	132.00	131.00
Broilers, live, per pound	n/a	n/a	n/a	.460	.440	.440
Eggs, all, per dozen	n/a	n/a	n/a	.526	.530	.470
Milk, all, per cwt ⁶	n/a	n/a	n/a	14.90	14.80	14.70

¹ Mid-month.

² Price not published to avoid disclosure of individual farms.

³ Preliminary prices are based on sales during the first half of the month.

⁴ "Cows" and "steers and heifers" combined.

⁵ Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter.

⁶ Before deductions for hauling and government withholdings. Includes bulk tank, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.

n/a = not available

United States Rice Stocks Up

Rough rice stocks in all positions on August 1, 2005, totaled 31.6 million hundred weight (cwt), up 62 percent from the total on August 1, 2004. Stocks held on farms totaled 2.82 million cwt, and off-farm stocks totaled 28.8 million cwt. Long grain varieties accounted for 60 percent of the total rough rice, medium grain accounted for 37 percent, and short grain varieties accounted for 3 percent.

Milled rice stocks in all positions totaled 4.30 million cwt, 46 percent above a year ago. Milled rice stocks were comprised of 3.49 million cwt of whole kernel rice and 811,000 cwt of second heads, screenings, and brewers rice.

United States Rice Stocks

Date	On Farms or Farm Warehouses	In Mills and Attached Warehouses	In Warehouses not Attached to Mills	In Ports or In Transit	Total all Positions
(Domestic Units – 1,000 Cwt)					
<u>Rough Rice</u>					
March 1, 2005	37,590	12,690	67,910	566	118,756
August 1, 2005	2,815	7,301	19,386	2,105	31,607
<u>Milled Rice</u>					
March 1, 2005	---	3,320	52	2,047	5,419
August 1, 2005	---	3,481	60	759	4,300

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